(b) In order to generate more employment, the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme throughout the country, wherein Margin Money is provided for setting up agro and rural Industries. Under this scheme, the KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for project above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs 25 lakhs rate of margin money is 25% of 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/Institution and for hill, border and tribal areas. North East Region, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs, but above this amount and upto Rs. 25 lakhs it is 10% of the remaining cost of the project. Under this scheme, the beneficiary is required to contribute a minimum 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks etc. As on 31.03.2002, 130869 projects (provisional) have been sanctioned in the country under the REGP and 1351305 jobs (Provisional) have been created.

(c) In view of the need to generate additional employment and the successful experience of the programme so far, it has been decided to continue the programme during the 10th Plan Period i.e. upto 31.3.2007, as well. The target set for the 10th Plan is to generate additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons with a proposed investment of Rs. 1250 crores.

Discrepancy in Government's figures of supply of drinking water

877. MISS. MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it was reported by government that only 5 percent of rural habitations are to be covered under drinking water programme by 2001-02, but surveys hardly support this optimistic picture and on the other hand indicate acute hardship and quality problems in about half of the rural habitation. Are Government aware of this discrepancy in estimations;

(b) why there is so much of discrepancy between Government records and ground reality;

(c) how did this happen;

(d) have Government taken any steps to know the real situation or to conduct more authentic studies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (e) As per the information received from States/ UTs as on 1.4.2001, 19548 habitation (1.4%) remained to be fully covered and as on 12.11.2002, there were about 1.1 percent of rural habitations remaining to be covered under rural drinking water programme. Further there were 2,17,211 rural habitations affected with water quality problem.

The discrepancy arises due to position being different in the village. Reasons are :—

(i) increase in population and number of habitations;

(ii) systems having outlived life span or becoming defunct due to poor maintenance;

(iii) sources going dry due to depletion of ground water level; and

(iv) sources have becoming quality affected.

The Govt. proposes to conduct a nation-wide survey to assess the present status of coverage of rural habitations under Rural Water Supply Programme. The State Governments have been requested to conduct survey of quality affected habitations to assess the actual number of such habitation.

Additional funds for tackling drought in Andhra Pradesh

878. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have released additional funds for renovation, restoration, replacement, rejuvenation of existing and defunct drinking water schemes to the State of Andhra Pradesh in the wake of drought conditions in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has released the entire Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the current year amounting to Rs. 163.77 crore to